

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended.

The Applicants' attorney appreciates the Examiner's time during the telephone call of October 13, 2004, even though the case was not substantively discussed due to computer problems.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Regarding claim 1, lines 28+, the Examiner stated that it is unclear how the engaging projections are fit into the second mounting member 14, as they appear from figure 1 to be fit into the elastic body sleeve 34.

Please note that paragraph [0041] of the application describes three "engaging portions" 48 that form part of the partition member 50, and are situated to project upward and respective portions along the circumference in proximity to the outside edge. The recited element states that the "engaging projections being fit axially inwardly into the second mounting member with the partition member superimposed on the shoulder portion of the second mounting member so that the engaging projections are held in direct or indirect engagement with an inner circumferential surface of the second mounting member, ..." Paragraph [0046] and FIG. 1 show that the engaging projections 48 are located axially inwardly in the second mounting member 14, which means that they are located axially in the inward direction of the second mounting member 14. Because of this the partition member 50 is superimposed on the shoulder portion of the second mounting member 14, so that the engaging projections 48 are held in direct or indirect engagement with an inner circumferential surface of the second mounting member 14. The Examiner is correct in noting that the engaging projections 48 are fit into the elastic body sleeve 34, however, the engaging projections are still axially inwardly into the second mounting member and are indirectly engaged with the inner circumferential surface of the second mounting member. Paragraph [0046] of the application states that the "partition member 50 is neither positioned nor fixed directly with respect to the second mounting member 14, but is rather positioned and fixed indirectly with respect to the second mounting member 14 via the

elastic body outer sleeve 34, which is positioned directly and fixed caulkwise to the second mounting member 14." The partition member is 50 is fixed to the elastic body outer sleeve 34 by the engaging projections 48. The engaging projections 48 are part of the partition member 50, as described in paragraph [0041]. As noted by the Examiner, the engaging projections 48 are fit into the elastic body sleeve 34. Therefore FIG. 1 and paragraph [0046] of the application clearly describe and illustrate "engaging projections being fit axially inwardly into the second mounting member with the partition member superimposed on the shoulder portion of the second mounting member so that the engaging projections are held in direct or indirect engagement with an inner circumferential surface of the second mounting member, ..."

The Examiner further stated that the last two lines of claim 1 are unclear, specifically pointing out the phrase "...cut out openings left after the engaging projections have been formed at a radially inside of the engaging projections...." The words "at a" have been deleted. In addition, paragraph [0041] and FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B of the application describe and illustrate how "C" shaped punch-out holes 69 are formed in the partition member 50 in order to form the engaging projections. The engaging projections are then bent so that cutout openings are formed radially inside of the engaging projections 48, as shown in FIG. 2B.

The Examiner stated that claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Applicants' attorney appreciates the Examiner's comments and has attempted to amend the claims accordingly. If further amendments are needed, please call the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at (650) 961-8300.

Respectfully submitted,
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